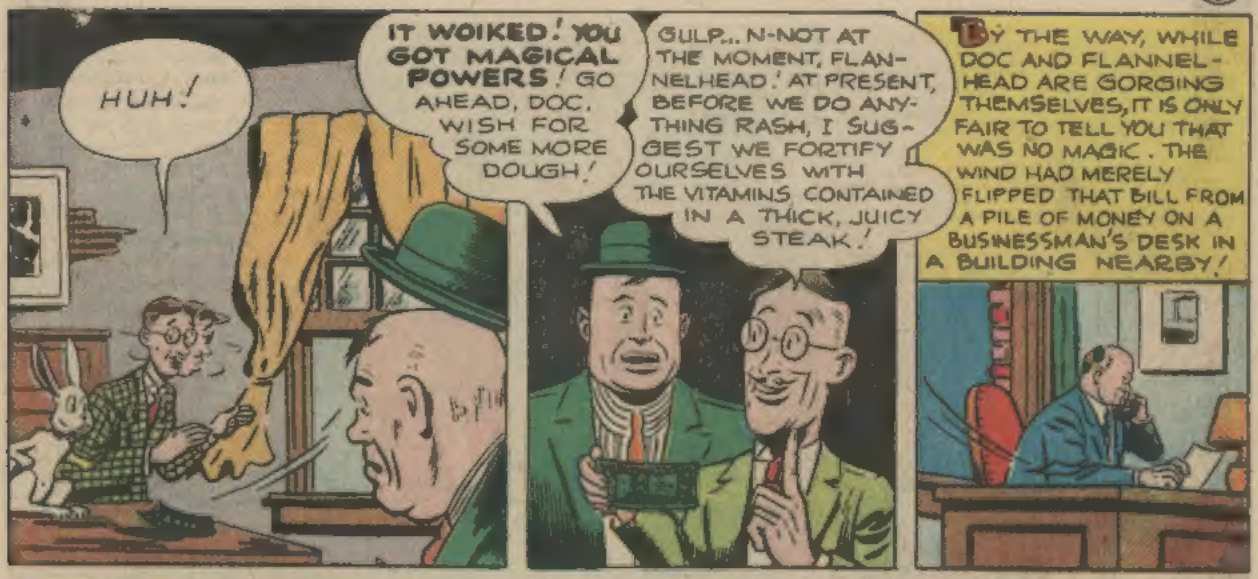
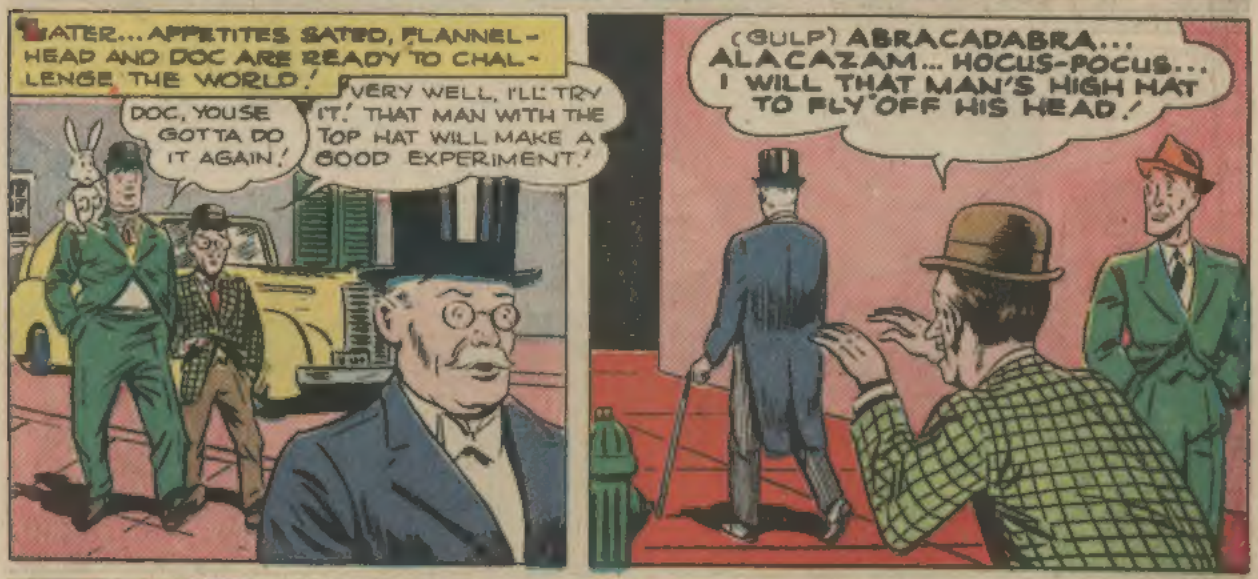
SUPERMAN
No. 83
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION
ACTION COMICS
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
APRIL
TEN CENTS
Introducing
HOCUS AND POCUS
MAGICIANS BY ACCIDENT
?

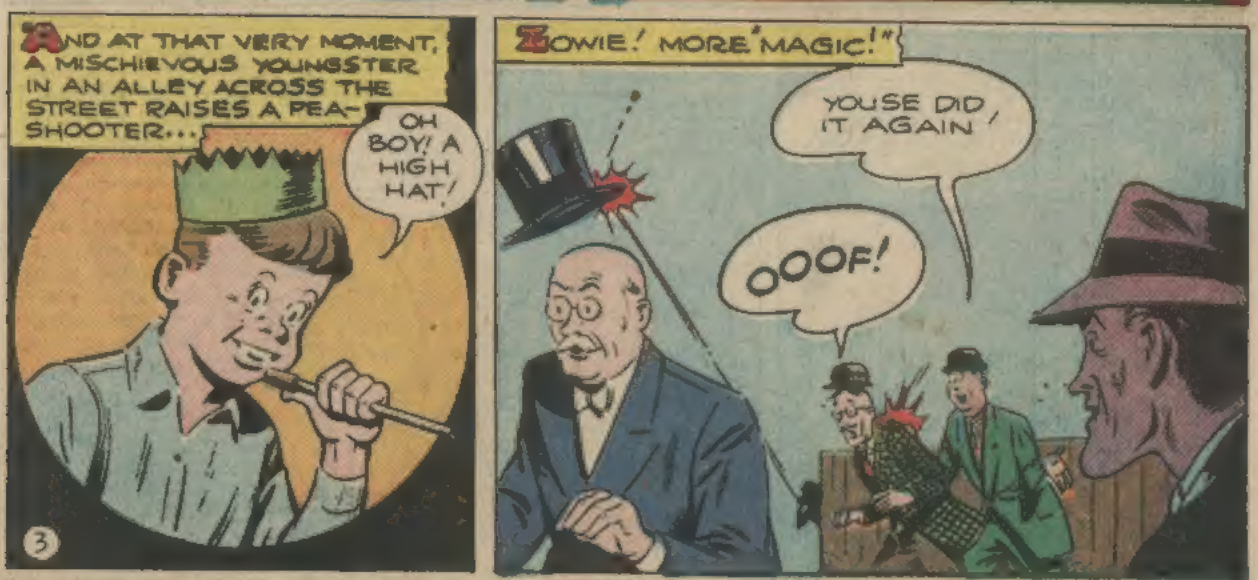
Coming
Soon!

SUPERMAN
by JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM... HOCUS-POCUS... LET SUPERMAN APPEAR!
WHO AMONG US HAS NOT, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, DREAMED OF POSSESSING MAGICAL POWERS? OF BEING ABLE TO MAKE THINGS OBEY EVERY WILL AND WHIM? REALITY SAYS THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE - YET IT HAPPENED! OR RATHER, IT HAPPENED AND IT DIDN'T HAPPEN! YOU SEE, SUPERMAN WAS AROUND, AND HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT! YES, HE CERTAINLY HAD SOMETHING, THOUGH NOT EVERYTHING, TO DO WITH...!
"HOCUS & POCUS... Magicians by Accident!"

LEARN TO BE A MAGICIAN IN FIVE EASY LESSONS! STEP UP CLOSER, FOLKS, FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION!
I WILL NOW PLUCK FROM THIS STRANGER'S SUIT, FIRST SOME PLAYING CARDS... THEN... A WHITE RABBIT!
YOW!
GOSH, DOC, I AIN'T NEVER GONNA LET YOUSE PUT MOITON IN ME BACK POCKET AGAIN! HE BIT ME!
OHDEAROHDEAROHDEAR!
"STRANGER," HUH?
A SHILL!
A STOOGE!
DID I DO SOMETHIN' WRONG, DOC? WHY HAS DA CROWD SCRAMMED?
THEY SUDDENLY DECIDED TO GO HOME, AND WE MIGHT AS WELL DO THE SAME... COME ALONG, FLANNELHEAD.
2
HOME, SWEET HOME -- IN MRS. FLAHERTY'S BOARDING HOUSE...
MOITON, DERE ARE TIMES I FEEL YOUSE WOULD MAKE A VERY TASTY RABBIT STEW!
STEW! FOOD! SUCH SAVORY WORDS... AND SUCH ELUSIVE THINGS! ALL THESE TEXTS ON MAGIC, AND I CANNOT EVEN CONJURE UP THE PRICE OF A HAMBURGER AND ONION!
TRY IT, DOC! WHY DON'T YOUSE MAKE WITH MAGICAL WOIDS AND WISH FOR DA PRICE OF SOME FOOD? IT MIGHT WOIK!
FLANNELHEAD, YOU ARE A MORON WITH ILLUSIONS! I SUPPOSE YOU THINK ALL I HAVE TO SAY IS ...ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM.. HOCUS-POCUS.. I WISH FOR SOME MONEY WITH WHICH TO BUY FOOD...


HUH!
IT WOIKED! YOU GOT MAGICAL POWERS! GO AHEAD, DOC. WISH FOR SOME MORE DOUGH!
GULP... N-NOT AT THE MOMENT, FLANNELHEAD! AT PRESENT, BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING RASH, I SUGGEST WE FORTIFY OURSELVES WITH THE VITAMINS CONTAINED IN A THICK, JUICY STEAK!
BY THE WAY, WHILE DOC AND FLANNELHEAD ARE GORGING THEMSELVES, IT IS ONLY FAIR TO TELL YOU THAT WAS NO MAGIC. THE WIND HAD MERELY FLIPPED THAT BILL FROM A PILE OF MONEY ON A BUSINESSMAN'S DESK IN A BUILDING NEARBY!


LATER... APPETITES SATED, FLANNELHEAD AND DOC ARE READY TO CHALLENGE THE WORLD!
DOC, YOUSE GOTTA DO IT AGAIN!
VERY WELL, I'LL TRY IT! THAT MAN WITH THE TOP HAT WILL MAKE A GOOD EXPERIMENT!
(GULP) ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM... HOCUS-POCUS... I WILL THAT MAN'S HIGH HAT TO FLY OFF HIS HEAD!


AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A MISCHIEVOUS YOUNGSTER IN AN ALLEY ACROSS THE STREET RAISES A PEA-SHOOTER...
OH BOY! A HIGH HAT!
3
ZOWIE! MORE MAGIC!"
YOUSE DID IT AGAIN!
OOOF!

DOC, YOUSE IS A MAGICIAN! YOUSE KIN DO ANYTHIN'!
OOF! FLANNELHEAD, I WISH YOU WOULD NOT BE QUITE SO ENTHUSIASTIC!
SUDDENLY...
DOC! LOOK! DAT CAR'S GONNA HIT DA KID!
OH MY! ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM... HOCUS-POCUS... I COMMAND THAT CAR TO SWERVE!
AND AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND THE CAR'S REAR TIRE HITS A NAIL AND...
BANG!
SCRE-E-ECH!
YOU SEE, FLANNELHEAD, A MERE MATTER OF MAGICAL APPLICATION! WITH MY NEW POWERS, WE CAN BE IMMUNE TO DANGER!
SQUEAK! SQUEAK! SQUEAK!
CALM YOURSELF! ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM... HOCUS-POCUS! PIANO GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
4
NOW IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT CLARK KENT IS PASSING BY...
ARE THEY CRAZY? WHY DON'T THEY GET OUT OF THE WAY!
IN ONE LIGHTNING MOVEMENT, HE WHISKS INTO AN ALLEYWAY AND WHIPS OFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS!

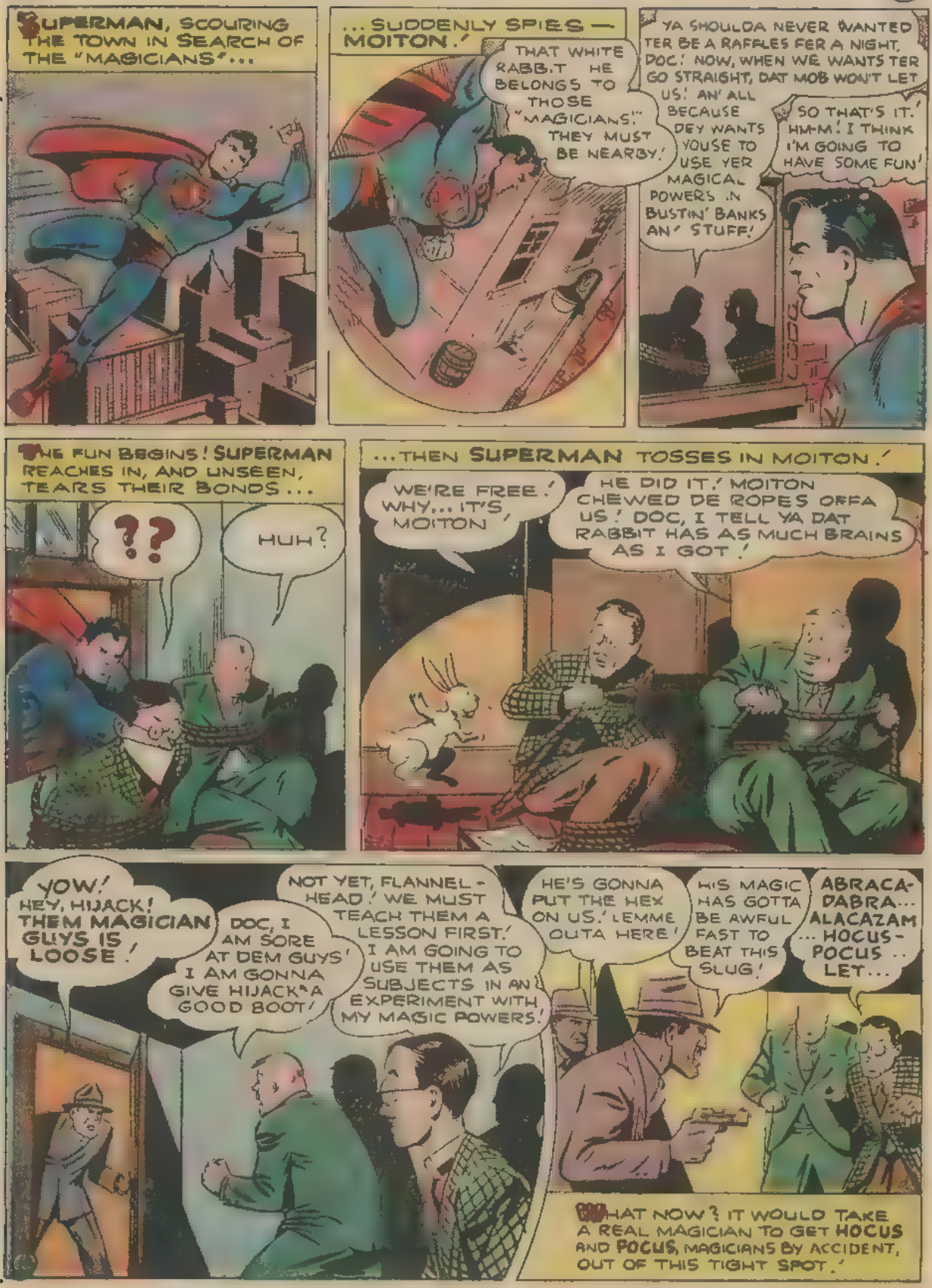
SUPERMAN'S BODY MOVES AT SUCH A PHENOMENAL CLIP THAT HE IS UNSEEN BY ORDINARY EYES!
WITH ELECTRIC SWIFTNESS HE SCOOPS UP THE HEAVY PIANO AND CARRIES IT TO ITS DESTINATION!
I GUESS THEY'VE A RIGHT TO GAPE! IT DOES LOOK RATHER FUNNY FOR A PIANO TO FLY RIGHT UP TO AN APARTMENT BY ITSELF!
STILL UNSEEN, SUPERMAN FLASHES AWAY... WHILE BELOW...
DOC, YOUSE IS A MIRACLE MAN!
OOF! IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF MY BACK HOLDS UP!
CLARK EMERGES JUST IN TIME TO HEAR THE TAIL END OF THE CONVERSATION...
I CAN'T GET OVER IT! IT'S MAGIC! DAT PIANNER DONE JUST WHAT YOU TOLE IT TO.
DEAR ME! I ACTUALLY DO POSSESS MAGICAL POWERS! BUT I MUST NOT USE THEM TOO OFTEN LEST I OVERTAX THEM!
THAT LITTLE MAN THINKS MAGIC DID IT!
AND WHAT DOES THE HARD-EYED MAN FOLLOWING DOC AND FLANNELHEAD THINK?
5

I SEEN YOU GUYS DO YER ACT ' MY BOSS KIN USE YOU. IF HE GIVES YA DA NOD, THERE'LL BE BIG DOUGH IN IT
DOUGH ? MONEY ? LEAD ON, MY NOBLE FRIEND!
NOBLE? IS HE A DOOK OR SOMEPIN' ?
... IT'S THE REAL THING. I TELL YA I SEEN IT ' FIRST THE HIGH HAT.. THEN THE CAR.. THEN THE PIANO '
OKAY, TROT 'EM IN '
THIS IS MY BOSS HIJACK DORLEY '
WHAT'S YER MONIKERS ?
MONIKERS ? OH, YOU MEAN NAMES ' I AM DOC AND THIS IS FLANNELHEAD, BUT SINCE WE ARE TO PLAY A PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT, YOU MAY ADDRESS US AS HOCUS AND POCUS '
I'LL COME TO THE POINT ' WE'RE GONNA ROB A RICH GUY'S PLACE TONIGHT ' IF YOU CAN FIX IT SO'S THE SAFE WILL OPEN WITHOUT SETTIN' OFF AN ALARM, WE'LL GIVE YA A BIG SHARE O THE DOUGH '
ROBBERY!
HMM-M ' VERY WELL, YOU MAY, COUNT US IN '
OKAY! BE BACK HERE THIS EVENIN '
ONCE OUT OF EARSHOT.
DOC, I NEVER T'OUGHT TA SEE DA DAY ' ROBBIN 'S DISHONEST.... CROOKED, TOO '
CALM YOURSELF, FLANNELHEAD ' I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING A SORT OF RAFFLES JUST ONCE AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO BE TONIGHT .. BUT FOR TONIGHT ONLY '
BUT DA DOUGH ? WE'LL BE STEALIN' ANUDDER GUY'S MOOLA '
MY DEAR FLANNELHEAD, I CAN USE MY MAGIC POWERS ANYTIME TO MAKE ALL THE MONEY WE WISH ' AND I CAN WISH THE STOLEN MONEY RIGHT BACK IN THE SAFE AGAIN '
6

EIGHT O'CLOCK THAT NIGHT... A CAR DRAWS UP BEFORE A DARKENED PRIVATE HOME...
THE OWNERS ARE AWAY FOR A VACATION! IT SHOULD BE A CINCH!
BUT AN UNSEEN ELECTRIC-EYE ALARM FLASHES A SIGNAL TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS..
WHAT IS IT, MURPHY?
BURGLAR ALARM, SIR! THE BRACKEN MANSION!
OH-OH! TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH! AS SUPERMAN, I CAN BEAT THE POLICE CAR THERE AND CATCH THE CROOKS IN THE ACT!
LOOK, MOM. SUPERMAN!
MEANTIME... AT THE MANSION, LIGHTS SUDDENLY FLASH ON!
UP WITH YOUR HANDS, OR I'LL SHOOT!
DOC, USE YOUR HOCUS-POCUS ON THAT GUY BEFORE HE STARTS THROWIN' BULLETS!
BULLETS? OH, DEAR ME! ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM... HOCUS-POCUS... WATCHMAN FALL UNCONSCIOUS!
MEANWHILE, UNNOTICED BY ANYONE, AND STARTLED BY THE SUDDEN GLARE OF LIGHT...
HE KNOCKED THE GUARD UNCONSCIOUS BY CALLIN' THAT VASE DOWN ON HIS DOME! HOKE, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
POW!!
HE DID IT!
BUT THEN...
DEAROHDEAROHDEAROHDEAR!
HIM!
SUPERMAN!
7

I THINK I'LL STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO BREAK UP THIS CONFERENCE!
OH!
OOH!
AH!
I WANT TO SEE SOMEONE SLIDING UP A BANNISTER FOR A CHANGE!
AND NOW.....!!
FERGAWSHSAKES, PUT THE HEX ON HIM BEFORE HE WRINGS OUR NECKS!
WRING... NECKS? DEAROHDEAR! ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM... HOCUS-POCUS... SUPERMAN, GO AWAY!
AND AT THAT INSTANT, SUPERMAN'S EVER RESTLESS EYES FOCUS INTO TELESCOPIC VISION AS THROUGH THE WINDOW HE SPIES...
THAT GIRL... ABOUT TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
THESE CROOKS WILL HAVE TO WAIT! BESIDES, THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON!
WOW! YA ACTUALLY MADE SUPERMAN RUN AWAY! DOC, YOU'RE TERRIFIC!
8
NOW WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY! YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THERE'S A LOT OF CO-INCIDENCE IN THIS STORY. WE KNOW THAT, BUT CAN WE HELP IT IF THAT'S THE WAY IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED
?
AND GETTING BACK TO THE STORY...
YIPES! THERE'S COPPERS PULLIN' UP!
SUPERMAN MUST'VE SENT THEM! BUT DON'T GET EXCITED! DOC HERE WILL PUT THE HEX ON 'EM!

POLICE! DEAROHDEAR! ABRACA... I'LL BE ARRESTED.. ABRA... THROWN IN JAIL... ABRACA... J-JAIL... A-B-B-BRA...
LET'S GET GOIN'! HE'S SO SCARED HE CAN'T SAY THE HEX STRAIGHT! C'MON!
MEANTIME...
OH! LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
AND GET YOUR PRETTY HAIR ALL WET? NOT ON YOUR LIFE!
AFTER TALKING THE GIRL INTO LIVING, SUPERMAN RACES BACK TO THE MANSION TO FIND DISAPPOINTED POLICEMEN...
THEY SAW US COMING AND GOT AWAY!
HMM! THOSE TWO MEN WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE MAGICIANS... WONDER HOW THEY HAPPENED TO BE WITH THAT MOB..?
BACK IN HIJACK'S HIDEOUT, DOC COMES TO A DECISION...
MISTER HIPANTS, FLANNELHEAD... THAT IS, POCUS AND MYSELF HAVE DECIDED WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE CROOKED PATH! WE'RE GIVING UP CRIME!
THAT SO? SOMETHIN TELLS ME...
...YOU'RE GONNA CHANGE YOUR MIND! THAT'S IT, WAXEY! SLIP THAT GAG IN HIS MOUTH! IF HE CAN'T TALK, HE CAN'T PUT THE HEX ON US!
HEY, YOUSE CAN'T... UH!
SQUEAK! SQUEAK!
COMES THE SAD AWAKENING...
Y'SEE, DOC, YOU'RE AN ASSET TO US WITH YOUR MAGIC STUFF! NOW YOU PLAY ALONG WITH US... WHILE WE KEEP YOUR FRIEND HERE AS SECURITY. YOU QUIT... AND HE QUITS LIVIN'! THINK IT OVER!
DON'T DO IT, DOC! HE CAN'T SCARE ME... MUCH!
LATER... ALONE WITH THEIR THOUGHTS...
I CAN'T BE THE CAUSE OF FLANNEL-HEAD'S DEATH! I'LL HAVE TO CONSENT! OH MY!
CHEE, I NEVER T'OUGHT MOITON WOULD RUN OUT ON US. I'M LOSIN' ME FAIT' IN HOOMAN NATCHURE!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MOITON??


SUPERMAN, SCOURING THE TOWN IN SEARCH OF THE "MAGICIANS"...
...SUDDENLY SPIES — MOITON.'
THAT WHITE RABBIT HE BELONGS TO THOSE "MAGICIANS." THEY MUST BE NEARBY!
YA SHOULDA NEVER WANTED TER BE A RAFFLES FER A NIGHT, DOC! NOW, WHEN WE WANTS TER GO STRAIGHT, DAT MOB WON'T LET US! AN' ALL BECAUSE DEY WANTS YOUSE TO USE YER MAGICAL POWERS IN BUSTIN' BANKS AN' STUFF!
SO THAT'S IT.' HM-M! I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN!
THE FUN BEGINS! SUPERMAN REACHES IN, AND UNSEEN, TEARS THEIR BONDS...
??
HUH?
...THEN SUPERMAN TOSSES IN MOITON.'
WE'RE FREE.' WHY... IT'S, MOITON
HE DID IT.' MOITON CHEWED DE ROPES OFFA US! DOC, I TELL YA DAT RABBIT HAS AS MUCH BRAINS AS I GOT.'
YOW! HEY, HIJACK! THEM MAGICIAN GUYS IS LOOSE!
DOC, I AM SORE AT DEM GUYS' I AM GONNA GIVE HIJACK A GOOD BOOT!
NOT YET, FLANNEL-HEAD.' WE MUST TEACH THEM A LESSON FIRST.' I AM GOING TO USE THEM AS SUBJECTS IN AN EXPERIMENT WITH MY MAGIC POWERS!
HE'S GONNA PUT THE HEX ON US.' LEMME OUTA HERE!
HIS MAGIC HAS GOTTA BE AWFUL FAST TO BEAT THIS SLUG!
ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM ... HOCUS-POCUS .. LET...
WHAT NOW? IT WOULD TAKE A REAL MAGICIAN TO GET HOCUS AND POCUS, MAGICIANS BY ACCIDENT, OUT OF THIS TIGHT SPOT.'

... THE GUN FLY UP AND POKE YOU ON THE PROBOSCIS!
OW! MY DOSE!
MAGIC? NO, SUPERMAN!
DOC, MAKE 'EM BOUNCE AROUN' DA WALLS AN' CEILIN'!
VERY WELL, FLANNELHEAD! ABRACADABRA... ALACAZAM.. HOCUS-POCUS... BOUNCE ON THE WALLS AND CEILING!
HERE'S WHERE I GO TO WORK AGAIN!
OW!
HALP!
I'M GOIN' BUGS I KNOW IT! OUCH!
HOCUS-POCUS! I COMMAND FURNITURE AND OBJECTS TO FLY AT THESE HOODLUMS!
OOH!
OH!
HEY, DOC, HIJACK IS TAKIN' IT ON DE LAM!
HE WON'T GET FAR! HOCUS-POCUS... I COMMAND THE VEHICLE TO TWIRL ROUND AND ROUND IN
OOOH! LEMME OUTA HERE
DOC IS CERTAINLY KEEPING ME HOPPING!
11

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE! HOCUS-POCUS.. FALL OUT!
OOF!
HOW'S DIS FER MAG C DOC.! I PUT 'IM TO SLEEP
DEAR ME, I HAVE NEVER ENGAGED IN FISTICUFFS BEFORE! I WONDER...?? HOCUS-POCUS... I WISH FOR THE STRENGTH OF A SUPERMAN!
ANYTHING TO OBLIGE!
AH! VERY SATISFACTORY INDEED!
MIGHT AS WELL PUT IN AN APPEARANCE NOW!
YOUS SOITENLY SAID IT, SUPERMAN!
AH! I WAS JUST PASSING BY! I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THE SITUATION!
YES, SUPERMAN, WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE!
CAN'T LET THIS FARCE GO ON FOREVER! I'LL TELL THEM THE TRUTH NOW!
ABOUT THIS 'MAGIC' OF YOURS, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT..
THAT IT'S INCREDIBLE? YES WE KNOW! IT'S REALLY ASTOUNDING THE WAY IT TERRORIZED THE HOODLUMS!
YOUSE SURE HAD 'EM JUMPIN', DOC!
BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I...
I KNOW. YOU'RE WORRIED LEST WE USE IT FOR EVIL PURPOSES. ON THE CONTRARY, WE SHALL USE IT TO WAGE WAR AGAINST CRIME. WE ARE GOING TO OPEN UP... A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY! GOOD DAY, SUPERMAN! COME ALONG FLANNELHEAD!
CHEE ME A DETECTIVE
OH WELL, WHO AM I TO DISILLUSION THEM! I GUESS FROM NOW ON I'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM AND MAKE THE MAGIC OF HOCUS AND POCUS MORE THAN JUST ACCIDENT! LOOKS LIKE EXCITING TIMES AHEAD FOR ME... AND MOITON!
IF YOU LIKED HOCUS & POCUS, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF THEM, DROP A POSTCARD TO — SUPERMAN, 480 LEXINGTON AVE., N.Y.C.
12

LIGHTER MOMENTS ... with fresh Eveready Batteries

"Private Jones reporting, 15th Infantry— with one of Tojo's supermen!"

THOSE FAMOUS walkie-talkies (portable 2-way radios) and other vital equipment for our Armed Forces are powered by "Eveready" "Mini Max" batteries. This is a tremendous assignment and requires our entire production at the present time. But rest assured that plenty of these powerful little batteries will be back for civilian use after the war.

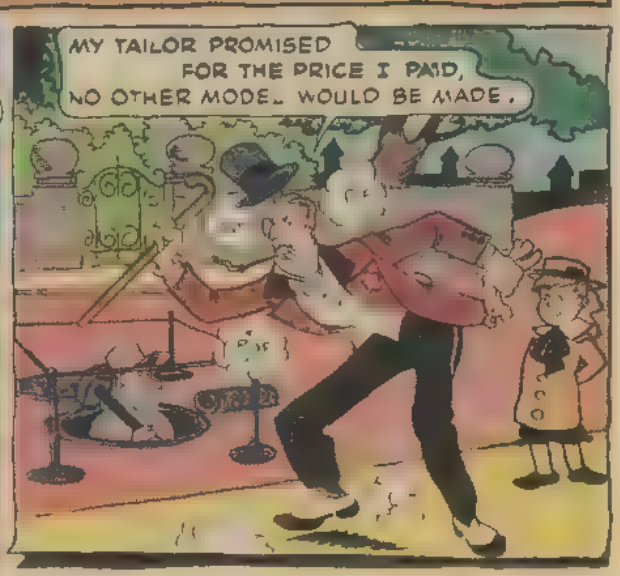
Whenever you have an extra dollar, put it toward an extra War Bond!

EVEREADY

The words "Eveready" and "Mini-Max" are registered trade-marks of National Carbon Company, Inc.

HAYFOOT HENRY
IN SLEEPYSIDE WHERE ALL THE FOLKS CONVERSE AND EVEN TELL THEIR JOKES IN RHYME, THERE LIVED A SNOBBISH FOP WHO ALL BUT BLEW HIS SILLY TOP WHEN HE FOUND OUT SOME OTHER COOT WAS WEARING AN EXACT SAME SUIT! AND THUS DID HENRY, IN SEARCH OF A RHYME, COLLIDE WITH A ...
"CUSTOM TAILORED CRIME!"

COUNT TENN BEST DRESSED MAN IN TOWN, SEES A SIGHT THAT GETS HIM DOWN...
HUH? IS IT POSSIBLE? THIS MAKES ME WROTH! THE SAME MATER A_ — THE IDENTICA_ CLOTH!


MY TAILOR PROMISED FOR THE PRICE I PAID, NO OTHER MODE_ WOULD BE MADE.

So off to his tailor flies the Count in a huff to say what he thinks of such underhand stuff!
My suit was to be exclusive, you said! For that copy you made, I should strike you dead!
What? You saw it? But how can that be? Not wearing it in town was his promise to me!
While the Count vents his anger inside the shop, who should be passing but Henry the cop!
For breaking your word you ought to be shot.
Please do forgive me, your trade means a lot!
Gracious me, what rants and shouts! I'd better go see who's on the outs!
TAILOR
Count Tenn, please! Don't lose your head. Why not argue with dignity instead?
Argue indeed! I'll find a tailor to be trusted.
There's only one other tailor. And with him you'll be disgusted!
So you copied his suit. You'll know better next time. Meantime perhaps you can help with a rhyme. The word's hippopotamus, I'm facing defeat, and my rhyming book is hardly complete.
PRESSED
About hippopotami I cannot worry when my best client leaves in a huff and a hurry! Two suits the same. Two's not a mob. Why must the Count be such a snob?
Hippopotamus -- a beastly word, the creature itself looks quite absurd. But I need that rhyme, so I guess I'll go home and try to squeeze it out of my dome.
?
2

BUT EVEN AT HOME, HE CAN'T THINK OF A THING. THREE HOURS PASS. AH--A TELEPHONE RING!
R-RING!
R-RING!
YES, MR GRAY? YOU SAY THEY STOLE YOUR SUIT? AND THE ONE THAT'S LIKE THE COUNT'S TO BOOT?
ALL RIGHT, DON'T GET INTO SUCH A DITHER I'LL GO FROM HITHER AND SEE YOU TA THER!
MOMENTS LATER, AT THE ROBBED DUDE'S FLAT, HENRY PULLS A THOUGHT FROM UNDER HIS HAT.
YOU'VE GOT TO CATCH THE BRUTE WHO STOLE MY PRECIOUS SUIT.
HM... SINCE THE COUNT AND YOU ALONE OWN SUCH SUITS — A FACT WELL KNOWN — WHO ON EARTH WOULD POSSIBLY CHOOSE IT? JUST ONE MAN — ONLY HE COULD USE IT!
YES, YOU GUESSED IT—HENRY VISITS COUNT TENN, BUT WAIT--YOU MAY HAVE TO GUESS AGAIN.
WHAT? ME STEAL HIS SUIT TO KEEP MINE EXCLUSIVE? REALLY, HENRY, YOU'RE GETTING ABUSIVE. EVEN MY OWN COPY'S OUT BEING MENDED. THE SEAT TORE ON A NAIL. IT'S BADLY RENDED.
HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, I'M PRETTY SURE. WHO, THEN, CAN BE THE EVIL-DOER?
?

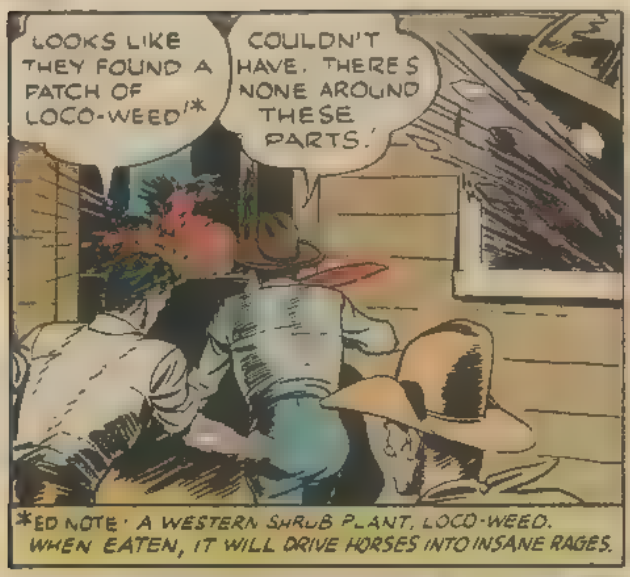
ALAS--THIS THIEF WILL NEVER BE BOOKED.
BUT WAIT--A CERTAIN FACT'S BEEN OVERLOOKED.
WITH HIS OLD TAILOR, THE COUNT IS THROUGH.
HIS SUIT MUST HAVE BEEN SENT TO SOMEONE NEW.
I'LL HAVE THE THIEF BEFORE VERY LONG.
PERFECT LOGIC.
I CAN'T BE WRONG.
ONLY ONE OTHER TAILOR-SHOP IN TOWN
AND THERE THAT THIEF WILL BE RUN DOWN!
FOR STEALING A SUIT, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST,
COME ALONG QUIETLY IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST.
BE WELL DRESSED GET YOUR PANTS PRESSED
HOLES IN YOUR CLOTHES NO USE GRIEVING
WE DO PERFECT INVISIBLE WEAVING
TAILOR SHOP
ME STEAL A SUIT? MY RACKET'S MAKING THEM.
WHY, THEN, SHOULD I BE TAKING THEM?
BECAUSE COUNT TENN BROUGHT YOU HIS SUIT TO REPAIR
AND YOU CANNOT FIX A VERY LARGE TEAR-
PUT
WITH THE COUNT'S SUIT BADLY TORN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PATCHED
BUT I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT MATERIAL CAN'T BE MATCHED!
SO YOU STOLE THE ONE COPY OF THE SUIT HE TORE--
BECAUSE THE COUNT'S TRADE MEANS PROFITS GALORE.
WHY LET OFF STEAM? LET'S IRON THIS OUT.
SORRY TO PRESS YOU, BUT DAMP CELLS GIVE ME GOUT.

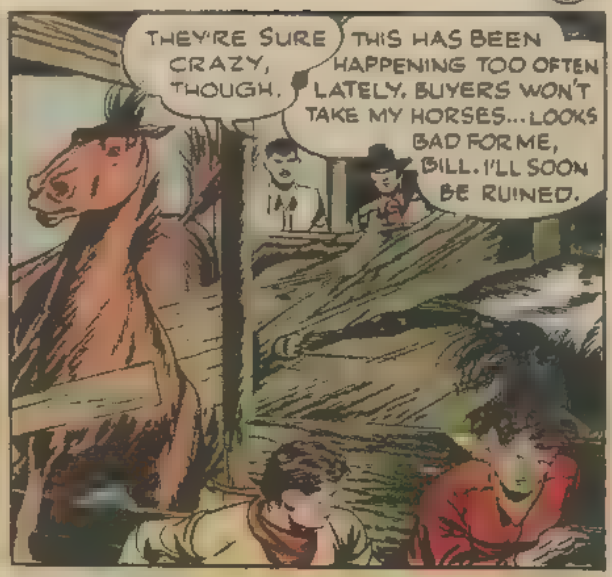
STOP IT! COUGH! COUGH! TURN THE STEAM OFF!
KLONK
OW--MY CHIN! IT'S ALL DENTED IN!
YOU'LL MOAN ABOUT MORE THAN A KICK IN THE JAW. PRESSING A COP IS AGAINST THE LAW!
IF HIPPOPOTAMUS WERE ONLY AS EASY TO RHYME AS OVERCOMING YOU AND MAKING YOU PAY FOR YOUR CRIME--
NOW WILL YOU COME QUIETLY AND SKIP A LOT O' FUSS?
WHY-- THAT'S YOUR RHYME FOR HIPPOPOTAMUS!
SKIP A LOT O' FUSS! HIPPOPOTAMUS! TO BE SURE--YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M FILLED WITH DELIGHT.
SNAP
SUCH A RHYME, OF COURSE, MAY FOMENT SOME DISPUTE, BUT I DON'T CARE. I THINK IT'S CUTE!
?!?
5
The End

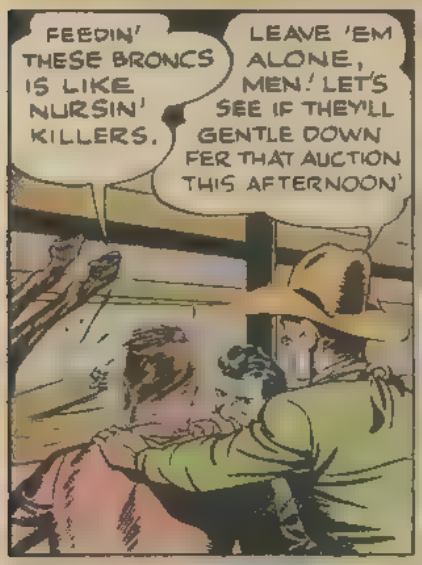
ADVENTURES OF "R.C." AND QUICKIE

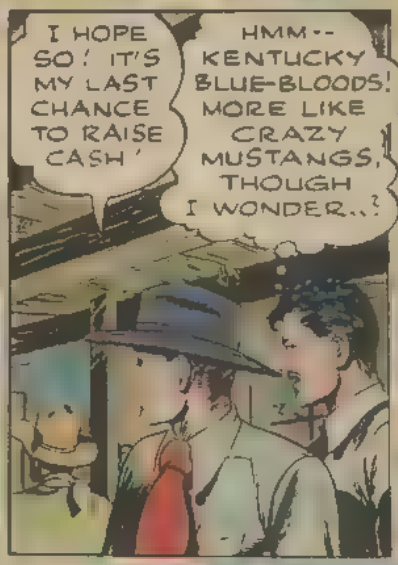
CIRCUS TERROR!
SUFFERIN CATS, "R.C." A LON S LOOSE! IS THIS AN ACT?
HELP!
"R.C." AND QUICKIE ARE AT THE CIRCUS WHEN SUDDENLY THEY HEAR SCREAMS!
IF IT IS IT WAS NEVER REHEARSED! C'MON.
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING? YOU WANT THE LION TO CHASE YOU?
YOU CATCH THE IDEA HEAD FOR THE CENTER RING BEFORE THE LION CATCHES US!
WISH NOW I WAS BACK IN MY SEAT DRINKING ROYAL CROWN COLA!
JUST AS I THOUGHT_ HE'S AFTER US! GRAB THAT POLE AND GET READY TO YANK IT OUT!
I GET IT! WHEN HE GETS IN THE MIDDLE WE PULL OUT THE SUPPORTS AND THE NET FALLS AND TRAPS HIM.
THE BOYS RACE UNDER THE HEAVY AERIAL SAFETY NET HANGING OVER THE CENTER RING "R.C." GRABS ONE OF THE SUPPORTING POLES.
T WORKED! WE SNARED H M! NICE GOING QUICKIE!
SEEING WHAT "R C" HAS N MIND SOME CLOWNS RUSH AND DROP THE REMAINING SUPPORTS!
FAST THINKING BOYS! I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN THANK YOU ENOUGH
KNOW HOW YOU CAN THANK US, SIR.. AND THE SOONER THE BETTER!
GEE YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
SO S TH S ROYAL CROWN COLA IT SURE GIVES ME A FRESH START!
NO WONDER IT'S WONDERFUL_IT'S THE BEST TASTING COLA OF THEM ALL!
DUNCAN RENALDO SAYS:
DITTO, FELLAS! IT DOES TASTE BEST!
Sure as shootin' Royal Crown Cola tastes best!' says Duncan Renaldo. Duncan took the famous R/A taste test. After trying leading colas in paper cups he picked one as best tasting. It was Royal Crown Cola! Try R C for a fresh start!
ROYAL CROWN COLA
Best by Taste-Test!
ROYAL CROWN COLA
2 FULL GLASSES 5¢
"THE CISCO KID RETURNS" A MONOGRAM Picture

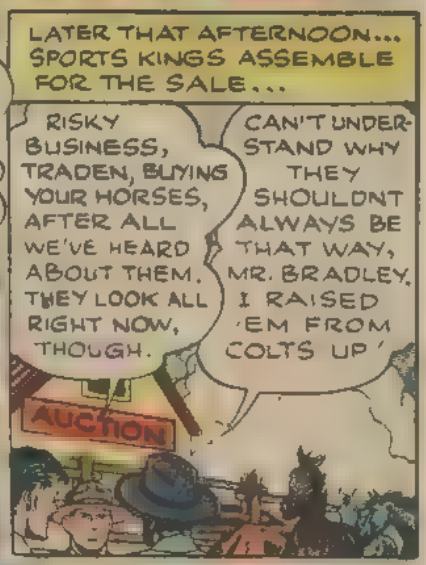
CONGO BILL
EVEN IN OUR OWN WEST, THERE'S NO REST FOR CONGO BILL, THAT TWO-FISTED, FAST-THINKING GLOBE-TROTTER WHO ROAMS THE ROADSTEADS AND BYWAYS OF THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE! FOR WHEN A WHOLE HERD OF THOROUGHBRED RACERS SUDDENLY CHANGES TO "LOCOED" BLUEBLOODS, CONGO BILL HAS TO COUNTER A CUNNING PLOT TO CASH IN ON THE STRIKING HOOVES OF... "WILD HORSES!"
A BLUE-GRASS RANCH WHERE CONGO BILL'S FRIEND J.M TRADEN, IS HAVING TROUBLE RAISING VALUABLE RACERS...
I'M ENJOYING MY VACATION BUT YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED, JIM WHAT'S WRONG?
PLENTY, BILL DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP, THOUGH
OH-OH HERE COMES BRICKER MY RANCH FOREMAN - WITH MORE TROUBLE NO DOUBT
MR TRADEN— THEM PRIZE STALLIONS AGAIN - THEY'RE PLUMB CRAZY! THEY'RE KICKIN' OUT THEIR STALLS!

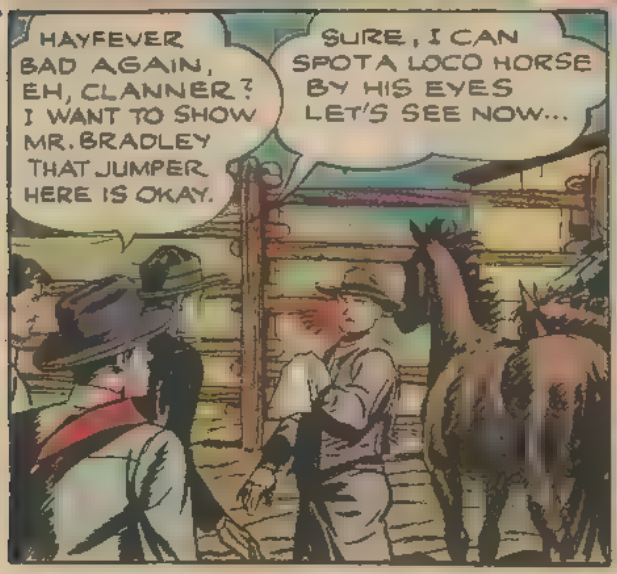

LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND A PATCH OF LOCO-WEED!*
COULDN'T HAVE. THERE'S NONE AROUND THESE PARTS.'
*ED NOTE: A WESTERN SHRUB PLANT, LOCO-WEED. WHEN EATEN, IT WILL DRIVE HORSES INTO INSANE RAGES.


THEY'RE SURE CRAZY, THOUGH.
THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING TOO OFTEN LATELY. BUYERS WON'T TAKE MY HORSES... LOOKS BAD FOR ME, BILL. I'LL SOON BE RUINED.

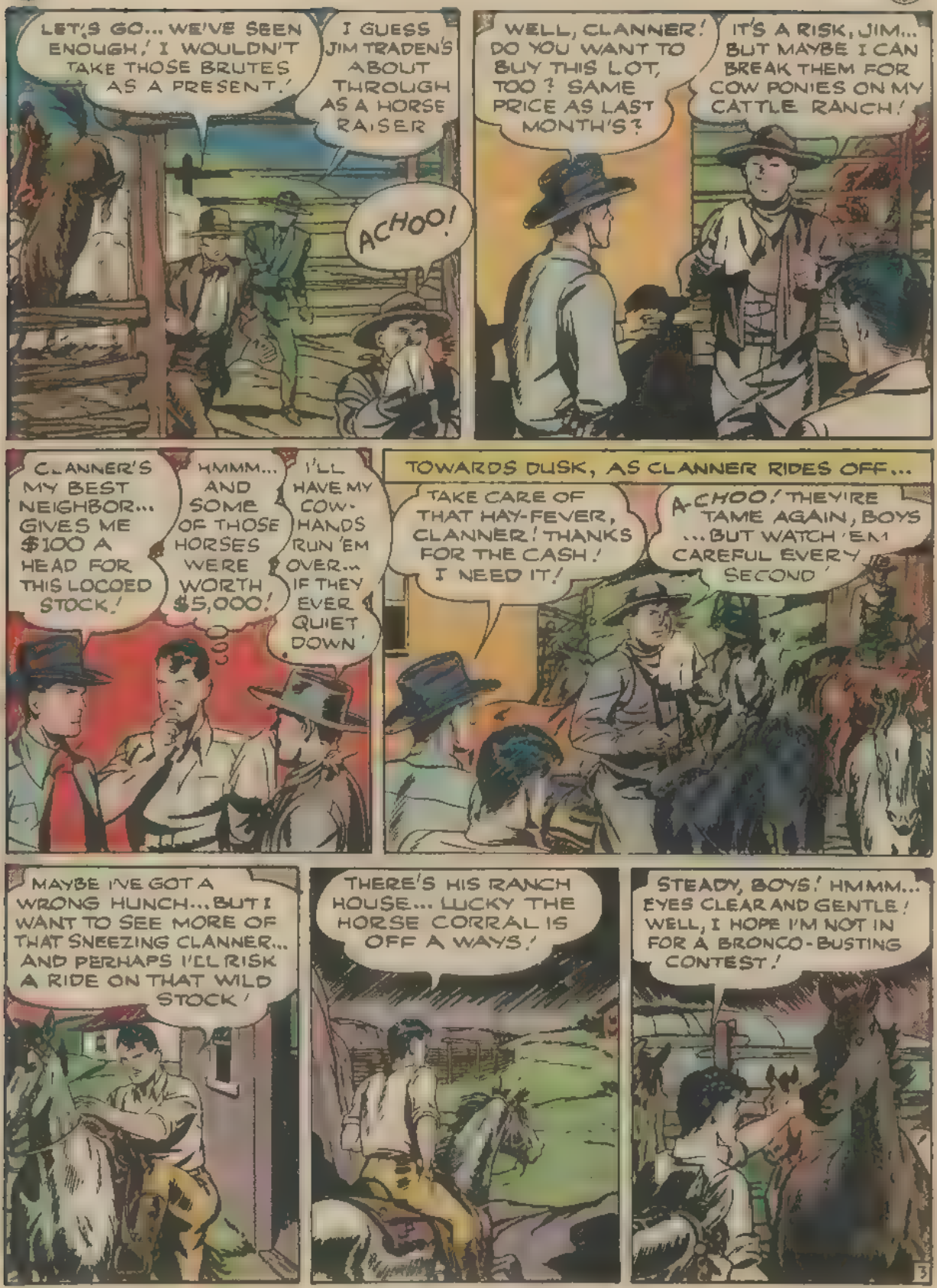

FEEDIN' THESE BRONCS IS LIKE NURSIN' KILLERS.
LEAVE 'EM ALONE, MEN! LET'S SEE IF THEY'LL GENTLE DOWN FER THAT AUCTION THIS AFTERNOON'


I HOPE SO! IT'S MY LAST CHANCE TO RAISE CASH'
HMM-- KENTUCKY BLUE-BLOODS! MORE LIKE CRAZY MUSTANGS, THOUGH I WONDER..?

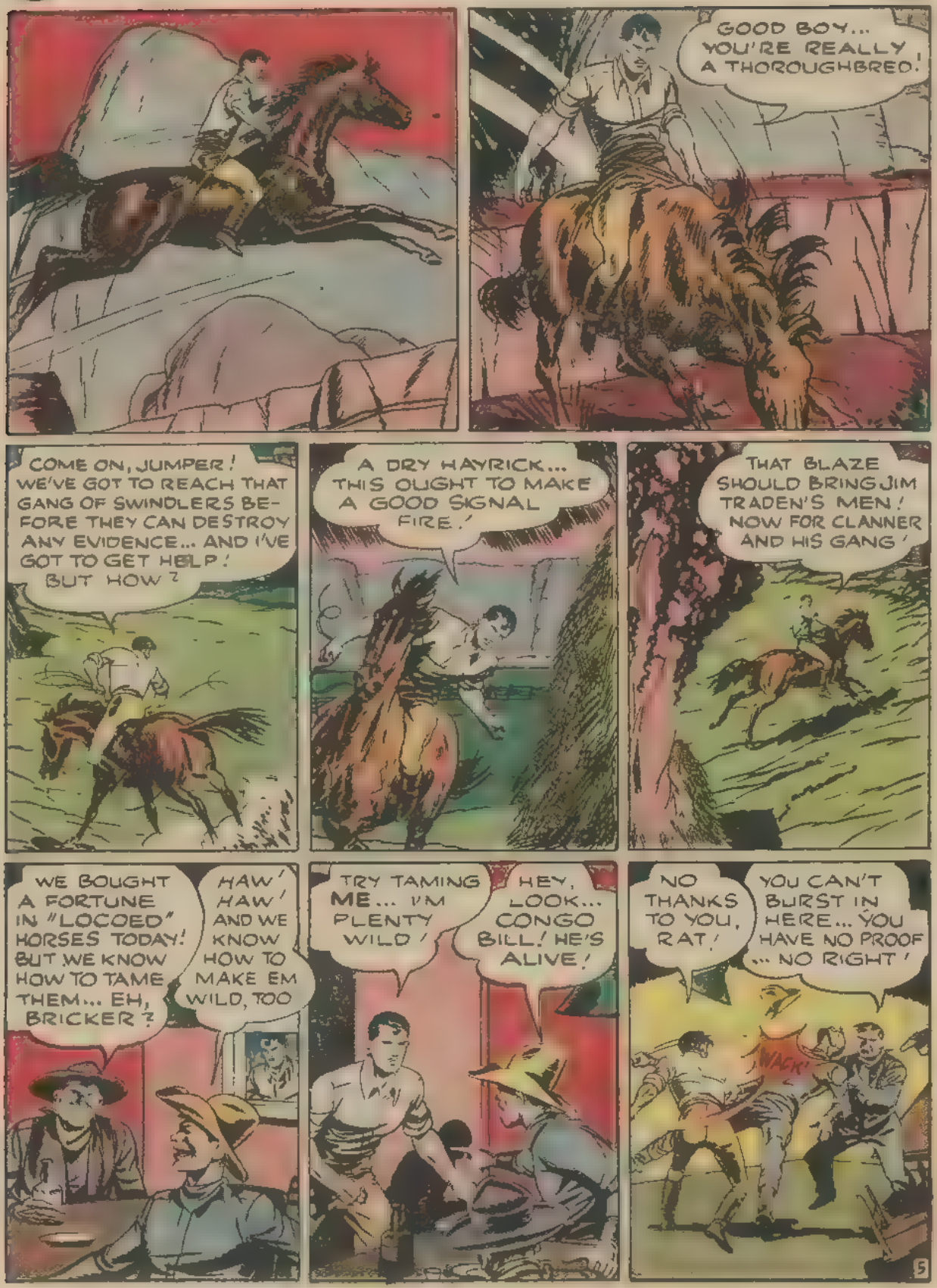

LATER THAT AFTERNOON... SPORTS KINGS ASSEMBLE FOR THE SALE...
RISKY BUSINESS, TRADEN, BUYING YOUR HORSES, AFTER ALL WE'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM. THEY LOOK ALL RIGHT NOW, THOUGH.
CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY SHOULDN'T ALWAYS BE THAT WAY, MR. BRADLEY. I RAISED 'EM FROM COLTS UP'
AUCTION


HAYFEVER BAD AGAIN, EH, CLANNER? I WANT TO SHOW MR. BRADLEY THAT JUMPER HERE IS OKAY.
SURE, I CAN SPOT A LOCO HORSE BY HIS EYES LET'S SEE NOW...

THAT'S THE END FOR ME!
THE END FOR US ALL IF WE DON'T GET CLEAR OF THESE FEET'
EEE


LET'S GO... WE'VE SEEN ENOUGH.' I WOULDN'T TAKE THOSE BRUTES AS A PRESENT.'
I GUESS JIM TRADEN'S ABOUT THROUGH AS A HORSE RAISER
ACHOO!
WELL, CLANNER! DO YOU WANT TO BUY THIS LOT, TOO? SAME PRICE AS LAST MONTH'S?
IT'S A RISK, JIM... BUT MAYBE I CAN BREAK THEM FOR COW PONIES ON MY CATTLE RANCH!
CLANNER'S MY BEST NEIGHBOR... GIVES ME $100 A HEAD FOR THIS LOCOED STOCK!
HMMM... AND SOME OF THOSE HORSES WERE WORTH $5,000!
I'LL HAVE MY COW-HANDS RUN 'EM OVER... IF THEY EVER QUIET DOWN!
TOWARDS DUSK, AS CLANNER RIDES OFF...
TAKE CARE OF THAT HAY-FEVER, CLANNER! THANKS FOR THE CASH! I NEED IT!
A-CHOO! THEY'RE TAME AGAIN, BOYS ...BUT WATCH 'EM CAREFUL EVERY SECOND'
MAYBE I'VE GOT A WRONG HUNCH... BUT I WANT TO SEE MORE OF THAT SNEEZING CLANNER... AND PERHAPS I'LL RISK A RIDE ON THAT WILD STOCK'
THERE'S HIS RANCH HOUSE... LUCKY THE HORSE CORRAL IS OFF A WAYS.'
STEADY, BOYS! HMMM... EYES CLEAR AND GENTLE! WELL, I HOPE I'M NOT IN FOR A BRONCO-BUSTING CONTEST!
3

RIDES AS SMOOTH AS A ROCKING CHAIR! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THESE HORSES!
...BUT I SURE HOPE I'M NOT SUSPECTING AN INNOCENT MAN! HEY... WHAT WAS THAT... A SNARL?
A MOUNTAIN LION! THAT'S A STRANGE PET FOR A CATTLE MAN! LIONS... AND CATTLE... OF COURSE... I SEE IT ALL NOW!
BUT YOU DIDN'T SEE THIS, CONGO BILL!
NOW GET ONE OF THOSE HORSES... AND SOME ROPE!
SLOK
I WARNED YUH THIS GALOOT WOULD GIT WISE TO OUR SCHEME! WE'LL HAVE TO SEND THEM BOTH OVER THAT CLIFF
SURE... IT'LL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT! AIN'T THIS HORSE SUPPOSED TO BE LOCO? HAW! HAW!
HE WILL BE... WHEN HE GETS A SNIFF OF THIS BOTTLE!
LOOK OUT... THERE HE GOES!
HIS RIDER STILL DAZED... STRAIGHT FOR THE EDGE OF DOOM, PLUNGES THE TERROR-STRICKEN HORSE!
OOWW! MY HEAD...
TOO LATE TO PULL HIM UP! COME ON, BOY... JUMP! IT'S FOR BOTH OUR LIVES!
14


GOOD BOY... YOU'RE REALLY A THOROUGHBRED!
COME ON, JUMPER! WE'VE GOT TO REACH THAT GANG OF SWINDLERS BEFORE THEY CAN DESTROY ANY EVIDENCE... AND I'VE GOT TO GET HELP! BUT HOW?
A DRY HAYRICK... THIS OUGHT TO MAKE A GOOD SIGNAL FIRE!
THAT BLAZE SHOULD BRING JIM TRADEN'S MEN! NOW FOR CLANNER AND HIS GANG!
WE BOUGHT A FORTUNE IN "LOCOED" HORSES TODAY! BUT WE KNOW HOW TO TAME THEM... EH, BRICKER?
HAW! HAW! AND WE KNOW HOW TO MAKE EM WILD, TOO
TRY TAMING ME... I'M PLENTY WILD!
HEY, LOOK... CONGO BILL! HE'S ALIVE!
NO THANKS TO YOU, RAT!
YOU CAN'T BURST IN HERE... YOU HAVE NO PROOF ... NO RIGHT!
WACK!
5

NO RIGHT BUT A GOOD LEFT!
WACK
OOOWW!
WE SAW YOUR SIGNAL.. WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT OUGHT TO CURE YOUR FAKE HAY-FEVER!
IT'S OVER NOW... HERE ARE THE MEN WHO RUINED YOUR HORSE RANCH. THEY BOUGHT YOUR "WILD" HORSES ONLY TO SHIP THEM EAST FOR SALE... AT A FAT PROFIT!
BUT HOW?.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT WAS EASY ENOUGH... CLANNER AND BRICKER AT CERTAIN TIMES CARRIED HANDKERCHIEFS SATURATED WITH MOUNTAIN LION SCENT! THEY'D RUB IT ON YOUR HORSE-TENDERS OR ON BUYERS AT YOUR AUCTIONS!
AND THE HORSE WOULD SMELL IT, AND NATURALLY GO WILD WITH FEAR AT THE THOUGHT OF A LION'S PRESENCE!
NEXT DAY... CONGO BILL RIDES JIM TRADEN'S GIFT...
I SEE THE SHERIFF GOT BACK ALL YOUR BLUE-BLOOD STOCK.
THANKS TO YOU, BILL... AND TO YOUR NEW HORSE, JUMPER!
6

SUPERMEN OF AMERICA

SUPERMAN'S
SECRET MESSAGE
(Code Mercury No. 1)

UIPVHI PVS BSNJFT BE-
WBODF BOE UIF FOFNZ
DSBDLT. UJMM UIF XBS
JT PWFS XF DBO'U SFMBY.

SUPERMAN, April
c o ACTION COMICS,
480 LEXINGTON AVENUE, N. Y. C. 17, N. Y.

Dear Superman:

Please enroll me as a Member of the SUPERMEN of AMERICA. I enclose 10c to cover cost of mailing. It is understood that I am to receive my Membership Certificate, Emblem and Superman Code.

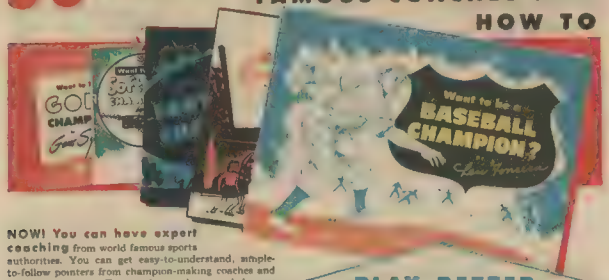
NAME ..... AGE ..

STREET ADDRESS. .....

CITY AND STATE. .....

Want to be a Champion?

FAMOUS COACHES AND HOW TO



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IN THE SOUP

by Ted Loury

EDDIE BENZIGER was very proud of his bright red truck, and of the job he had driving it. A lot of men would not want the kind of job Eddie had. It is no fun sitting ahead of something that can blow you to bits.

That's the kind of job Eddie Benziger had, driving a pass to Kingdom Come around. You see, Eddie worked for the munitions factory. His job was to tote trinitrotoluene around. Know what trinitrotoluene is? It's TNT!

Yes, that's the stuff safe crackers call "soup". It looks just like soup, and sometimes it's white and sometimes it's pale yellow, depending on temperature. At all times it's dangerous.

But not to Eddie Benziger. He loved his job. Everybody knew that. And everybody also knew that Eddie gloried in the way they all looked at him in awe when he drove around in that little truck, no matter what the weather.

Eddie took the job when the draft board doctor decided he wasn't fie for military service. And, being no coward, Eddie grabbed this risky job as chauffeur for a moving coffin. So there he was, no matter what the weather, moving his concentrated earthquake back and forth.

He was a good-natured guy, this Eddie Benziger. Always ready with a quip, and good for a laugh anytime. He only got mad once, real mad.

It was the dark, rain swept night he stopped off at Mike Andreas' diner for some hot coffee before proceeding to the Munitions Plant with his cargo. Funny thing, he never even knew the fellows he was mad at. Not until later.

One of these men was Lefty Gaines, who headed a gang of payroll robbers. Being a payroll thief is bad enough, but when you concentrate on taking defense plant payrolls, you are really no good. Everyone of those workers is doing something for his country. And Lefty Gaines and his two boys, Rod McClellan and Knucks Magisti, were no better than traitors. That's what all the editorials said.

They also said a lot more, about how it was too bad the cops hadn't broken up the mob before. The editorials also implied that Lefty Gaines must have been pretty smart to get away with what he did.

Lefty Gaines was smart. He had to be to keep two hoods like Rod and Knucks in line as long as he did.

They literally worshipped Lefty. He had brought them dough undreamed of, even for wartime. Being of rather sparse mentalities, it never occurred to them that they were traitors to their country in doing what they were. They hadn't been drafted, records like the boys possessed aren't wanted in any military operation.

Consequently, with police forces depleted, and the G-men busy ferreting out spies, the element of percentage was all to the good for Lefty and his boys. Which may explain why they hadn't been caught so far. That, plus Lefty's innate wiliness.

Now, here they were getting set for another job, the biggest to be pulled thus far. For three weeks, the trio had been working in the Munitions Plant. It hadn't been hard getting a job there, since Lefty had the contacts that got a new birth certificate for himself and the boys everytime.

Lefty had also managed to scatter the holdups far enough apart so that they wouldn't be connected. In the matter of working in a defense plant, he had made the boys take vocational courses for three months, just long enough for them to learn a small job. In that way, once they got into the plant, they were enabled to move around.

Lefty had the best job of all. Faking a bad leg he had managed to get menial work as a porter. In this way, he learned the layout of the offices, particularly the paymaster's department. The other boys knew how the rest of the plant operated.

In the Munitions Plant they had a perfect setup. The owners always started paying off the midnight shift first, and then went right through until the three shifts had been paid.

The money, in cash, was delivered by an armored car at exactly ten o'clock every other Wednesday. It was a two week payroll, which meant just twice as much for Lefty, Rod and Knucks.

Lefty, ever cautious, let three weeks go by before he got ready to swing into action. "We can afford time, fellers," he always told the boys, "because if we make it work for us, we won't get caught." He chuckled then and added, "I'd rather take time than do time."

Of course, the boys got that. Like Lefty, they'd done time, plenty of it. As a matter of fact, they had met Lefty in stir and agreed to throw in with him.

What a combine! Now they had plenty of dough. This one last job, then a life of ease. Lefty had fired their imaginations with pictures of South America and Mexico and what money could buy down below the border. Also, it would prove a fertile field for them if ever they had to get back to work.

They were on the swing shift,

(Continued on inside back cover)

BONERS
by LIL' WILLIE
OH OH I'M CATCHING A COLD · NF · SNIF --
BILL, YOU BETTER SOAK YOUR FEET IN A NICE HOT MUSTARD BATH!
KA-CHOO
HMM --- CAN'T SEEM TO SEE ANY --
LATER -- I BETTER SEE HOW BILL IS GETTING ALONG
I COULDN'T FIND THE MUSTARD SO I USED CATSUP INSTEAD"

WORN BY
COMMANDOS
PARATROOPERS
RANGERS
INFANTRYMEN

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VIGILANTE
IN THIS CORNER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PROFESSOR HIGGINS, THE DEFENDING CHAMPION. IN THAT PROFESSOR WATLING, THE CHALLENGER! IT'S A FIGHT TO THE FINISH, WITH NO SCIENTIFIC BLOWS BARRED! NEVER HAVE THE VIGILANTE AND HIS PAL, STUFF, WITNESSED A MORE FEROCIOUS WAR OF WORDS. UNTIL THE BONE OF CONTENTION IS STOLEN FROM BENEATH THE NOSES OF THE TWO SLUGGERS OF SCIENCE! THEN WESTERN WITS AND WEAPONS COME INTO PLAY, AS THE BEREFT BATTLERS OFFER..
"A FORTUNE for a FOSSIL!"
HERE, KITTY KITTY, KITTY
MORT MORTON

THE EARTH OCCASIONALLY SHARES A SECRET WITH US MORTALS WHICH SHE HAS GUARDED CAREFULLY FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS...
THIS SURE IS A FUNNY-LOOKIN' ROCK!
IT AIN'T NO ROCK... IT'S A FOSSIL, LIKE THEM PROFESSORS ARE ALWAYS LOOKIN' FOR! MAYBE THEY'LL BUY IT FROM US!
AND SO, SHORTLY, IN A MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY...
UNDOUBTEDLY, PROFESSOR WATLING, A THIGH BONE OF THE KITIOSAURUS, IN SPLENDID CONDITION.'
I AGREE IT'S A THIGH-BONE, PROFESSOR HIGGINS... BUT NO SUCH ANIMAL AS THE KITIOSAURUS EVER EXISTED!
PROFESSOR WATLING, I FEAR THAT ENVY OF MY SUCCESS HAS CARRIED YOU BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF DISCRETION! MY THEORY IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED!
YOUR THEORY IS UTTER NONSENSE! AND I'M SURE THAT PRECISE MEASUREMENTS WILL PROVE ME CORRECT!
YOUR OBJECTIONS ARE NOTHING BUT UNMITIGATED TWADDLE!
AND YOUR THEORY, SIR, IS UNADULTERATED TOSH!
A SADLY UNSCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION! MEANWHILE...
GOSH, GREG, LOOK AT THIS! A COUPLE OF GUYS FIND A BONE THAT A DOG WOULD TURN UP HIS NOSE AT.. AND A BUNCH OF PROFESSORS GET ALL EXCITED!
I SAW THE HEADLINE, STUFF ... WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
HEADLINES
VITAL SCIENCE THEORY HINGES ON FOSSIL!
IT'S ABOUT EVOLUTION! IF THERE WAS SUCH AN ANIMAL AS THE KITIOSAURUS, EVOLUTION HAPPENED ONE WAY... IF THERE WASN'T, IT HAPPENED ANOTHER!
WONDERFUL HOW THEY CAN FIGURE THINGS OUT FROM JUST A SINGLE FOSS_?
UH-HUH... WE HAD THAT IN SCHOOL THE OTHER DAY. THE SHAPE OF THE LEG HELPS THEM FIGURE OUT THE KIND OF TEETH, AND SO ON!
2

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE RUN OVER TO THE MUSEUM AND TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THOSE OLD-TIME CRITTERS?
OKAY, LET'S GO!
NOT LONG BEFORE, IN THE HIDEOUT OF BIG-TIME BENNIE...
GEE, THE WHOLE SCIENTIFIC WOILD IS WAITIN' TO LOIN THE MEASUREMENTS OF THAT FOSSIL.
SO WHAT? IF IT WAS A BANK VAILT THEY WAS MEASURIN', I'D BE INTERESTED... BUT A HUNKA ROCK DON'T MEAN NOTHIN' TA ME
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A IGNORAMUS.' THIS THING IS— NOW, I JUST GOT AN IDEA.'
A CHANCE FER SOME EASY PICKIN'S.' COME ON, LET'S GET STARTED.
AND SO, AS STUFF AND GREG SANDERS SAUNTER THROUGH THE MUSEUM...
MY TEACHER SAYS IT WAS A CASE OF TOO MUCH BODY AN' NOT 'NUFF BRAIN... THAT'S WHY THEY DIED OUT.'
THEY'D A-BEEN EASY TO ROPE, WITH NECKS LIKE THAT'
DID YOU HEAR THAT, GREG?
YEP! SOUNDS LIKE WORK FOR THE VIGILANTE.' WAIT JUST A SECOND STUFF, WHILE I SLIP INTO AN EMPTY SIDE ROOM
HELP!
SECONDS LATER...
GOT TO SLOW THEM UP TILL THE VIG GETS HERE!
THEM SCIENTISTS ARE EASY PICKIN'S FER A GUY WHAT COOKS UP A SCIENTIFIC CRIME'
3

NOT SO FAST, BONE-SNATCHER!
HEYYY!!
YOU'RE JUST ASKIN' FER TROUBLE, BRAT.
I MAY BE ASKING, BUT YOU'RE GETTING IT! JUST LOOK BEHIND YOU!
THAT'S AN OLD ONE, KID... HUH...? THE VIGILANTE?
NO ONE ELSE BUT, SIDE-WINDER!
AND A-GUNNIN' FOR RATTLERS LIKE YOU!
BOP!
YIII-I-I
BUT AS THE LARRUPING LARIATEER SEEKS NEW MUGGS TO CONQUER...
GOOD GRACIOUS, IS IT SAFE?
IF YOU MEAN THAT FOSSIL, PROFESSOR, IT'S HERE!
HOLD UP, PARD YOU AIN'T PROFESSOR HIGGINS...
-OR PRO-FESSOR WATLING, EITHER... I SAW BOTH THEIR PICTURES!

WOULD YA BE KINDA SURPRISED, SAP TA LOIN WE WAS PARTA BENNIE'S MOB ?
UGH!
AND WOULD YA BE KINDA SHOCKED IF YA BANGED YER HEAD AGAINST MY FIST ?
OW!
MOMENTS LATER...
THEY SURE PUT IT OVER ON US THIS TIME, PARDNER !
AND HOW ! NOW WHAT ?
ALL I'VE GOT, OLD-TIMER, IS A HEADACHE !
VIGILANTE YOU MUST HAVE 'IT
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT FOSSIL, BETTER ASK BENNIE !
THEN IT'S GONE AFTER ALL.. JUST AS IT WAS ABOUT TO PROVE MY THEORY !
TO DISPROVE IT, YOU MEAN ! YOU'RE LUCKY, PROFESSOR HIGGINS, THAT THIS CRIMINAL APPEARED ! MAY-BE YOU EVEN HIRED HIM !
AS SCIENTIFIC TEMPERS ARE ABOUT TO FLARE...
HOLD ON GENTS ! SAVE YOUR ANGER FOR BENNIE, NOT EACH OTHER ! I'LL KEEP MY EYES OPEN FOR HIM, AND MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK YOUR FOSSIL !

LATER, AS THE WESTERN WADDY AND HIS PAL LEAVE THE MUSEUM . . .
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT GETTING THAT THING BACK, VIG... BUT HOW ARE WE GONNA DO IT? WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND BENNIE!
I THINK BENNIE WILL GIVE US A CLUE HIMSELF! HE DIDN'T STEAL THAT FOSSIL JUST TO UPSET THOSE TWO OLD FOSSILS.
HE EXPECTS TO CASH IN ON IT!
SO YOU FIGURE HE'LL SEND THEM A RANSOM NOTE? SOUNDS REASONABLE!
AND IN FACT, THE VERY NEXT DAY . . .
READ THIS, PROFESSOR WATLING, AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY DILEMMA!
TWENTY GRAND? AND WHAT MAY THAT BE, PROFESSOR HIGGINS?
If you want that fossil, chump, it'll cost you twenty grand... or else science is gonna suffer! Don't take the cops! Just bring the dough..
I HAVE HAD THE PHRASE TRANSLATED... IT MEANS TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! AND I CAN RAISE, AT MOST, ONLY TEN THOUSAND!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL SUPPLY THE OTHER TEN THOUSAND! NOT FOR YOU, SIR, BUT FOR SCIENCE! THAT FOSSIL WILL PROVE YOU WRONG, AND ME RIGHT!
AND SO, THAT EVENING...
CAREFUL, STUFF... THEY WOULDN'T SEE US IF WE WERE UNDER THEIR NOSES, BUT BENNIE MAY BE SUSPICIOUS!
THERE THEY GO, VIG THEY MUST BE ON THEIR WAY TO PAY THE RANSOM NOW!

PRESENTLY.
QUIET, STUFF... JUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.'
HUH.?
LOOK, VIG... THAT MUST BE ONE OF BENNIE'S MEN'
YES. WE'VE GOT TO KEEP OUR EYES ON HIM
AS THE PUNCHING PLAINSMAN AND HIS PAL FOLLOW THE RANSOM MONEY...
HE'S GOING INTO THAT DESERTED FACTORY'
THAT'S WHERE THEY MUST HAVE HIDDEN THE FOSSIL' AFTER HIM, STUFF'
I GOT THE DOUGH, BOSS'
POIFECT.' NOW WE'LL GIVE THE GAPS BACK THEIR FOSSIL... THEY MUST BE LONELY WITHOUT IT'
TALKIN' ABOUT FOSSILS, RATTLER... GET READY TO GIVE YOUR OLD BONES A REST!
THE VIGILANTE AGAIN'
HE MUSTA FOLLOWED ME'
I SURE DID, COYOTE... AND NOW I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU'
AAAAAA
7

OWW!
CHEESE IT, HERE COMES A BOP!
HEY!
MIGHT AS WELL PRACTICE MY BULLDOGGING FOR THE RODEO.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... AND THAT'S GET OUTTA HERE! SO I'LL THROW THIS SWITCH...
WHA..? A SPRINKLER SYSTEM!
BRRR... THAT WATER'S ICE-COLD... AND IT'S WET, TOO! I'M SOAKED
AND SO, SHORTLY...
TOO BAD THEY GOT AWAY, STUFF.. BUT THEY LEFT THE MONEY
THE PROFESSORS'LL BE THANKFUL FOR THAT, ANYWAY!
THEY WON'T BE, STUFF... UNLESS THEY GET THEIR FOSSIL BACK.
BUT AFTER A THOROUGH SEARCH...
THAT'S FUNNY. IT AIN'T AROUND' YET HE DIDN'T HAVE IT WITH HIM WHEN HE RAN OUT.
I THINK I GOT A HUNCH
8

I JUST REALIZED WHAT BENNIE MIGHT HAVE DONE WITH IT! COME ON, VIG... I'LL SHOW YOU!
I'M NOT FROM MISSOURI, PARDNER. BUT I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO BE SHOWN
PRESENTLY, AT THE MUSEUM ONCE MORE...
YUH DON'T MEAN THAT THEY HID IT WHERE THEY STOLE IT, PARD?
THAT'S MY HUNCH, VIG!
AND HERE'S BENNIE, TO MAKE SURE IT'S STILL SAFE
THEM GUYS AGAIN!
PRETTY SOON THEY'LL BE SEEIN' SNAKES IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES!
AND THINKIN' THEY SEE PINK ELEPHANTS!
OWW
AND IMAGININ' THAT A GILA MONSTER'S JUMPIN' AT 'EM!
HELP! TAKE IT AWAY
9

SOON, EVERYTHING'S OVER BUT THE SHOUTING...
NOW, YOU SIDEWINDERS, YOU'LL SAVE US A SEARCH! YOU'LL TELL US WHERE THAT FOSSIL IS!
NO, VIG, WE AIN'T GONNA TALK!
YOU'LL GET THAT FOSSIL WHEN YOU LET US GO AND GIVE US OUR DOUGH! IF NOT, IT'LL BE TOO BAD FER SCIENCE!
AH, HERE ARE THE PROFESSORS, AROUSED BY THE RUMPUS! I'LL SHOW THEM WHERE IT IS!
PRESENTLY, STUFF LECTURES BEFORE AN ATTENTIVE AND MOST CURIOUS AUDIENCE...
NOW, GENTLEMEN, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SKELETON! NOTICE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT THE BONES?
STRANGE? I RESTORED THIS SKELETON MYSELF AND...WHY, GOODNESS GRACIOUS ME!
THERE'S AN EXTRA TIBIFEMUR OSSEOSUS! IT, CAN'T BE...
IT IS, PROFESSOR HIGGINS! THAT FOSSIL YOU WERE LOOKING FOR!
SURE! WHERE ELSE COULD YOU HIDE A FOSSIL WHERE IT WOULDN'T BE CONSPICUOUS EXCEPT WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER FOSSILS!
THE LAD'S A CHILD PRODIGY, NO LESS!
MUCH LATER...
GOSH, VIG... THE TWO PROFESSORS ARE GONNA GIVE ME CREDIT IN THEIR NEW BOOK! THAT FOSSIL PROVED BOTH THEIR THEORIES WRONG...SO THEY GOT TOGETHER TO CREATE A NEW ONE!
WHICH MEANS THAT EVERYBODY'S HAPPY..EXCEPT BIG-TIME BENNIE AND HIS GANG! TOO BAD...BUT MAYBE THEY'LL FIND A FOSSIL OF THEIR OWN AMONG THOSE ROCKS THEY'RE CRACKIN' NOW!
The End

ADVERTISEMENT

VOLTO FROM MARS
CAREFUL, MEN, WE ARE IN DANGEROUS SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLES!
GEE WHIZ, PROFESSOR, LOOK THERE!
A BOA-CONSTRICTOR! HE'S KILLING OUR PACK MULE!
WATCH ME UNTANGLE THIS!
SEE? WHEN I SAY "VOLTO" MY LEFT HAND REPELS!
BUT, LOOK! THE MULE'S RUNNING AWAY!
VOLTO
JUST LEAVE THAT TO VOLTO! WATCH HOW MY MAGNETIC RIGHT ARM ATTRACTS!
VOLTO
YOUR POWER NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE ME, VOLTO!
IT'S SECOND NATURE TO US MARTIANS! WE RE-CHARGE OUR MAGNETIC POWER BY EATING WHOLE-GRAIN CEREALS!
THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES ALONG ON THE TRIP! IT IS THE GRANDEST-TASTING WHOLE-GRAIN CEREAL IN THIS WORLD OR ANY OTHER!
I KNOW IT! FRANKLY, THAT IS ONE REASON WHY I CAME ALONG!
GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES MAY NOT GIVE YOU VOLTO'S MAGNETIC POWER, BUT IT WILL SURE START YOU OFF LIKE A POWER-HOUSE IN THE MORNING! GET GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES TODAY! TASTES SWELL!

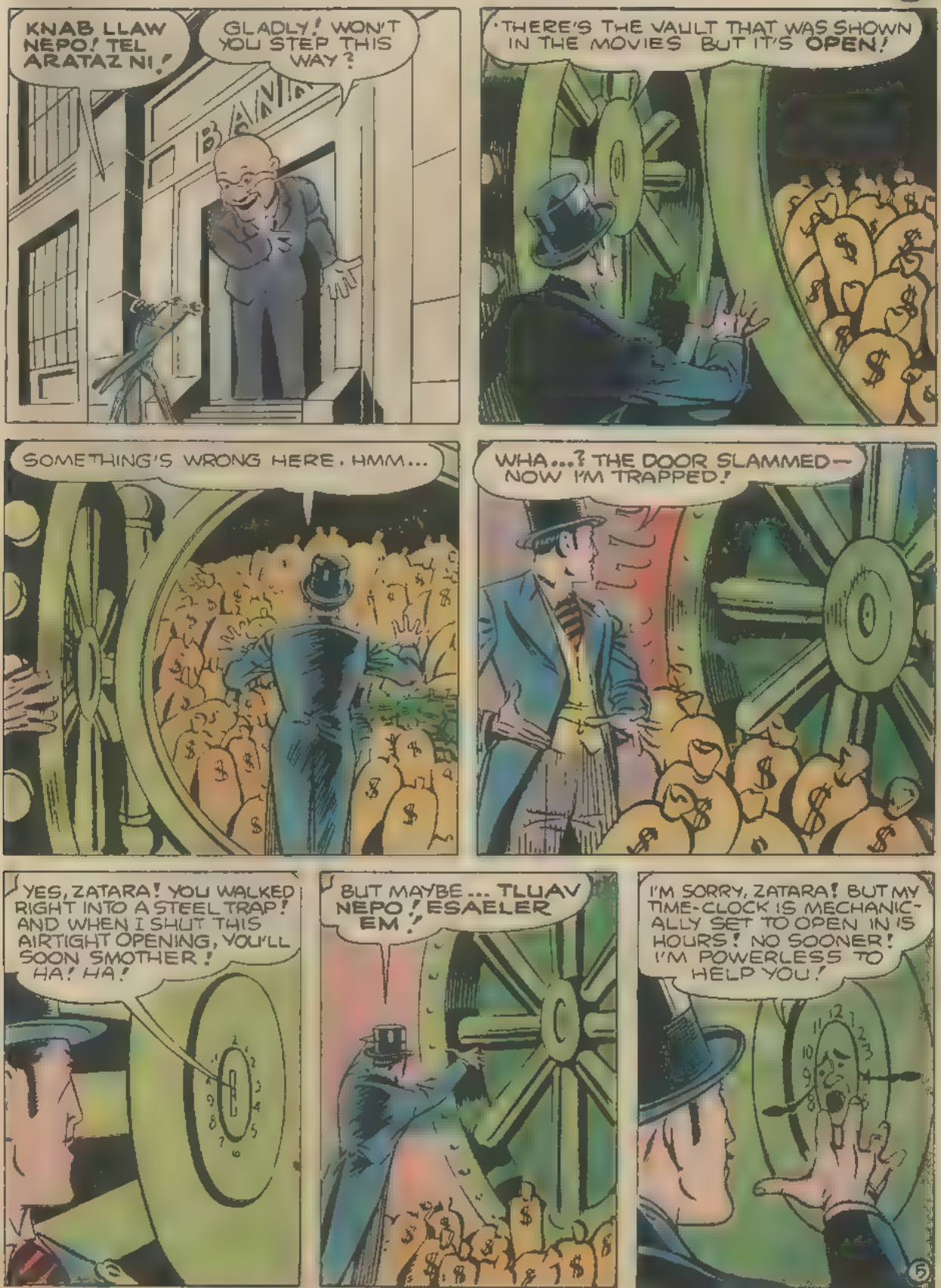
TUNE IN HOP HARRIGAN BLUE NETWORK MON. THRU FRI.

ZATARA
THE MASTER MAGICIAN
IS A CONDEMNED CROOK REALLY AN HONEST MAN, EVEN THOUGH EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE PROVES HIM GUILTY? AND CAN A ROBBERY NEVER HAVE TAKEN PLACE, WHEN THERE ARE ACTUAL MOVING PICTURES TO PROVE IT HAPPENED? THESE ARE ONLY TWO OF THE PUZZLING PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE SOLVED BY ZATARA, THAT MASTER-MYSTIC IN THE TOP HAT, BEFORE JUSTICE CAN BE DONE...
"THE INNOCENT THIEF!"
AT THE CITY COURTS, A GUILTY CRIMINAL FACES THE PENALTY OF THE LAW...
GERALD MILLER, THE JURY FINDS YOU GUILTY OF BANK ROBBERY!
NO, NO! I SWEAR I AM INNOCENT. THE EVIDENCE IS FALSE!
PLEASE GIVE ME ONE LAST CHANCE, LET ME CALL ZATARA!
YOU CROOK! EVEN YOUR FAMOUS MAGICIAN FRIEND CAN'T SAVE YOU!

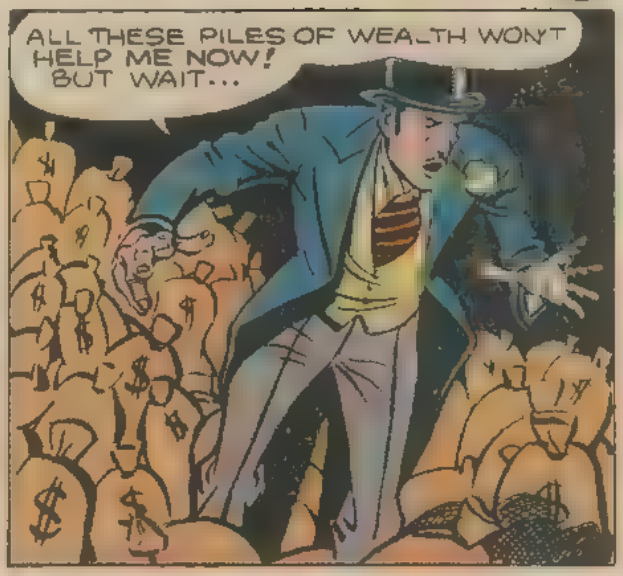
GERALD MILLER, A BANK ROBBER? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WELL, COME ON DOWN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF! THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM IS PRETTY STRONG!
LATER...
ZATARA! YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ME!
NOTHING CAN HELP YOU! JUST WAIT TILL ZATARA SEES THOSE PICTURES!
I'M J.D. GORGON, MILLER'S EMPLOYER! I'VE MISSED FUNDS FROM MY BANK LATELY, SO I HAD AN AUTOMATIC CAMERA INSTALLED NEAR THE VAULT!
AND THIS IS WHAT I FOUND OUT!
IT'S MILLER, ALL RIGHT! NO MISTAKE THERE!
HMMM!
ROBBING MY BANK! HE KNEW THE COMBINATIONS, HAD THE NECESSARY KEYS, AND ENJOYED A POSITION OF TRUST.
THERE! THE CAMERA NEVER LIES!
THE EVIDENCE SEEMS TO BE COMPLETE...

BUT ZATARA, I'M INNOCENT! YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND LEFT! IF YOU LOSE FAITH IN ME...
GO ALONG QUIETLY NOW! I'LL LOOK INTO THIS!
MAY I EXAMINE THIS FILM AT MY HOME, CHIEF?
OF COURSE, ZATARA! BUT I CAN'T SEE WHAT YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH. THE MAN'S GUILTY, AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
THIS TIME YOUR TRUST IS MISPLACED, ZATARA!
PERHAPS GORDON IS RIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT GERALD IS A THIEF!
AND LATER, AT ZATARA'S HOUSE...
I'LL RUN THIS CRIME MOVIE MYSELF AND IDENTIFY MILLER FOR CERTAIN!
IS MY MAGIC POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MOVE SHADOWS? LET'S SEE.. MLIF POTS! S'RELLIM KAEPS!*
I'M NOT GERALD MILLER- EVEN THOUGH I DO LOOK LIKE HIM.
WHAT? LAEVER FLES! KLAT NO!
3
* READ ZATARA'S MAGIC WORDS BACKWARDS!

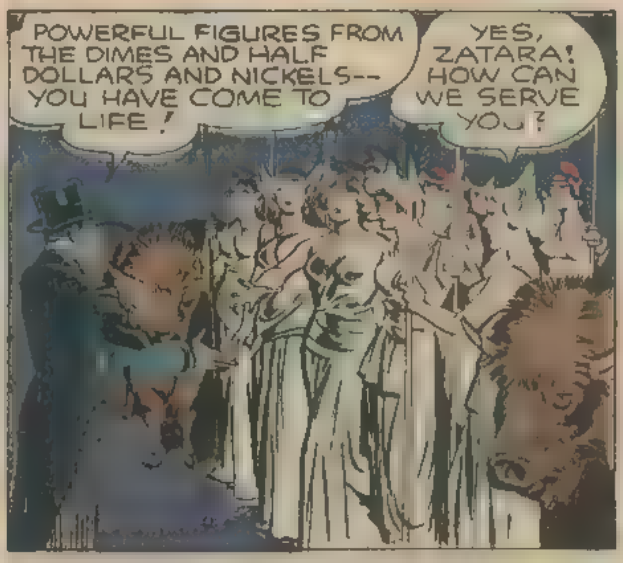
I'M DISGUISED TO LOOK LIKE MILLER! MY REAL NAME IS "FINGERS" AND I WAS HIRED BY
SUDDENLY, THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW HURTLES A FLAMING TORCH!
THE FILM! IT WILL BURN IN A FLASH!
TOO LATE! EVEN MY MAGIC CAN'T SAVE THAT FILM! I'LL BE LUCKY TO SAVE MY OWN HOUSE!
RETAW STIRIPS ESUOD SEMALF!
WE HATE FIRE ZATARA! GLAD TO HELP!
HELP! WE'RE GOING OUT!
SAFE AT LAST! BUT MY FLAME-THROWING VISITOR IS GONE!
BUT I HAVE AN IDEA WHERE I MIGHT FIND HIM! AND MILLER'S FREEDOM DEPENDS ON HOW RIGHT I AM.
4


KNAB LLAW NEPO! TEL ARATAZ NI!
GLADLY! WON'T YOU STEP THIS WAY?
BANK
THERE'S THE VAULT THAT WAS SHOWN IN THE MOVIES BUT IT'S OPEN!
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. HMM...
WHA...? THE DOOR SLAMMED— NOW I'M TRAPPED!
YES, ZATARA! YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO A STEEL TRAP! AND WHEN I SHUT THIS AIRTIGHT OPENING, YOU'LL SOON SMOTHER! HA! HA!
BUT MAYBE... TLUAV NEPO! ESAELER EM!
I'M SORRY, ZATARA! BUT MY TIME-CLOCK IS MECHANICALLY SET TO OPEN IN 15 HOURS! NO SOONER! I'M POWERLESS TO HELP YOU!

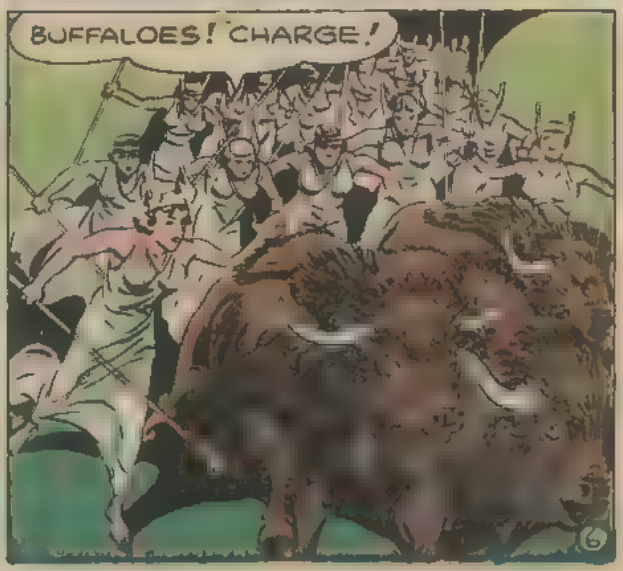
WHOEVER HE IS, THAT FIEND WAS RIGHT! NO AIR... I'LL SOON BE UNCONSCIOUS!


ALL THESE PILES OF WEALTH WON'T HELP ME NOW! BUT WAIT...

SERUGIF ESIR MORF SNIOC!


POWERFUL FIGURES FROM THE DIMES AND HALF DOLLARS AND NICKELS-- YOU HAVE COME TO LIFE!
YES, ZATARA! HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

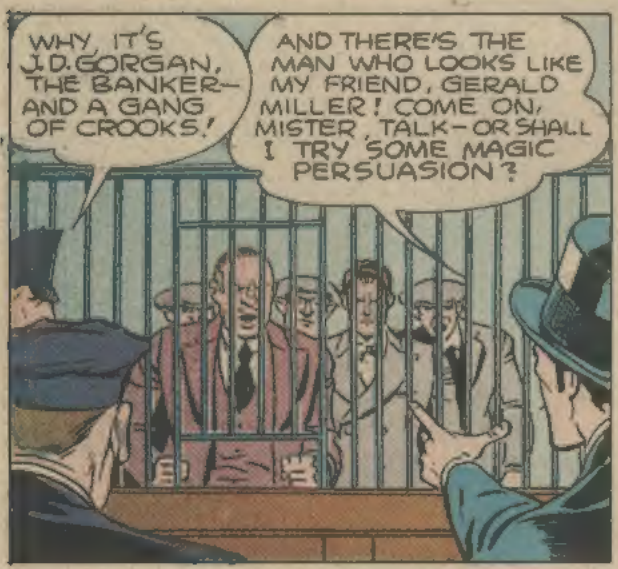
TSRUB EHT TLUAV!


BUFFALOES! CHARGE!

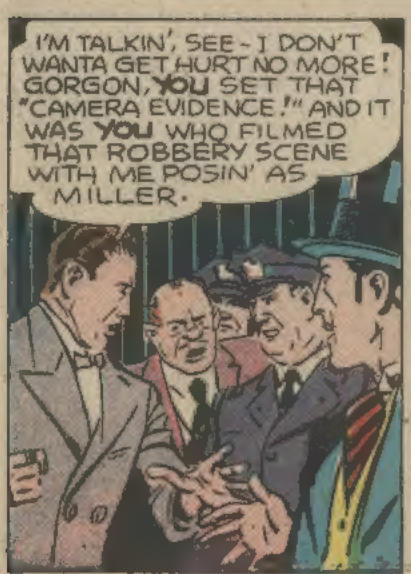
THOSE HORNS AND SPEARS ARE MY ONLY HOPE!
WHAT A RACKET THAT MAGIC GUY IS MAKING IN THERE!
HE'LL SOON BE QUIET! THEN WE'LL GO IN FOR OUR LAST CLEAN-UP!
HEY, BOSS! THE VAULT'S BULGIN' OUT!
HEY! THE STEEL IS CRACKIN'!
YIII-III!
'TAIN'T NATURAL!
I SEE ZATARA! HELP! HE'S TURNED HIS MAGIC ONTO US!
ERUTPAC NEM! DREH MEHT NI EGAC!
ZATARA COMMANDS! WE OBEY!
YOW! BUFFALOES!
HELP! I'M SEEIN' THINGS!
7

NOW FOR SOME LIGHT ON THESE SUBJECTS!
HEY, THEM BUFFALOES ARE GONE! AN' SO ARE ALL THEM TERRIBLE PEOPLE.
YEAH, BUT THESE BARS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HERE TO STAY!

ZATARA! WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES!


WHY, IT'S J.D. GORGAN, THE BANKER— AND A GANG OF CROOKS!
AND THERE'S THE MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE MY FRIEND, GERALD MILLER! COME ON, MISTER, TALK—OR SHALL I TRY SOME MAGIC PERSUASION?

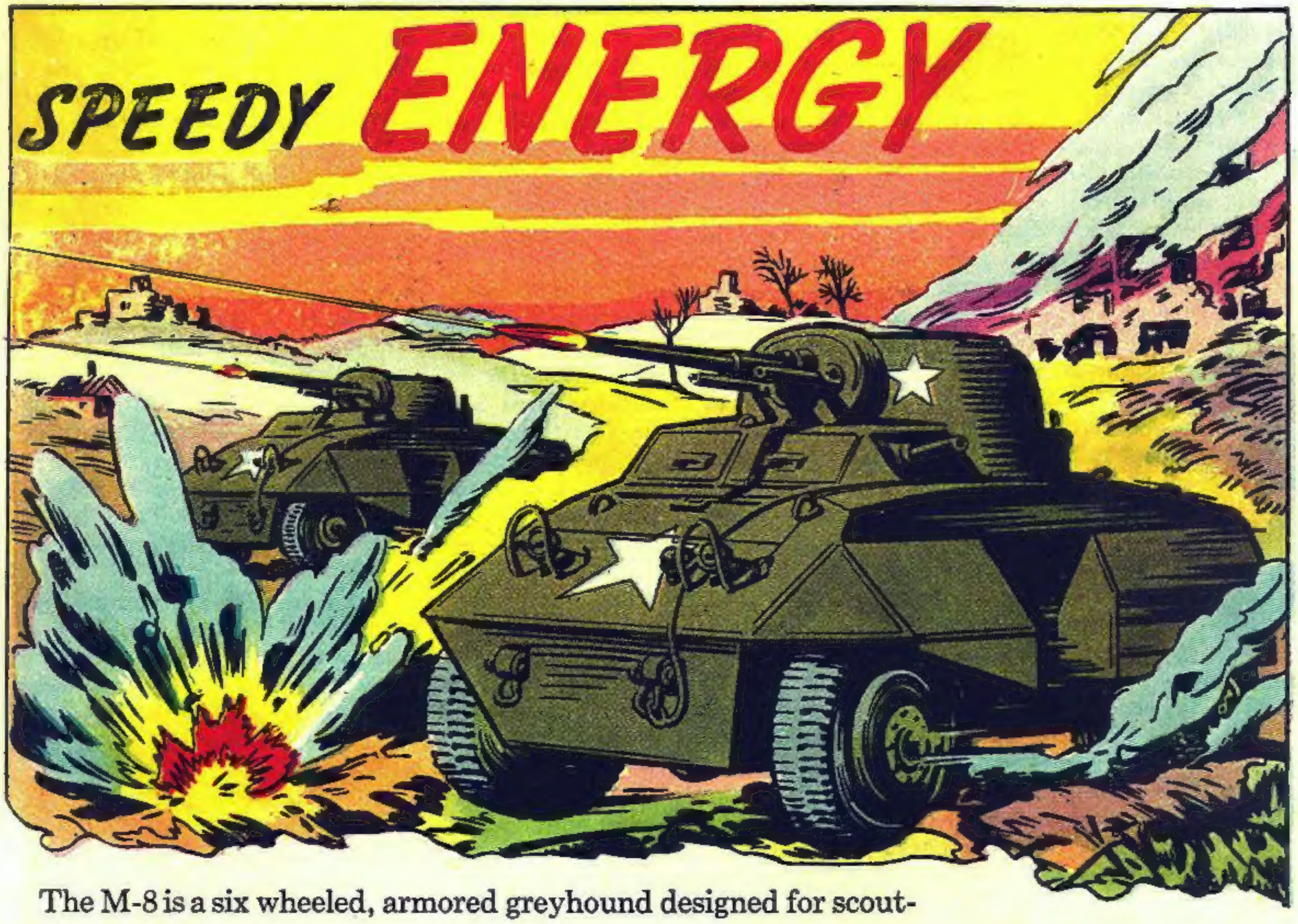
NO, NO MAGIC! I'LL TALK! IT WAS GORGON WHO HIRED US TO ROB HIS OWN BANK! AND WE THREW THAT TORCH IN YOUR HOUSE TO DESTROY THE FILM...
SQUEALER! SHUT UP!


I'M TALKIN', SEE - I DON'T WANTA GET HURT NO MORE! GORGON, YOU SET THAT "CAMERA EVIDENCE!" AND IT WAS YOU WHO FILMED THAT ROBBERY SCENE WITH ME POSIN' AS MILLER.

WELL, OFFICER, YOU SEE HOW IT IS NOW? GORGON HAD BEEN LOOTING HIS OWN BANK RIGHT ALONG, AND HE TRIED TO COVER UP BY FRAMING AN INNOCENT MAN!
NOW WE'LL FRAME THESE CROOKS! IN A JAIL CELL!

NEXT DAY...
I'M FREE, ZATARA! THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR POWERS!
THOSE THIEVES MUST BE CRAZY! THEY'RE SCARED STIFF AND STILL RAVING ABOUT BUFFALOES AND SPEARS! THEIR CONSCIENCE SURE MUST BE BAD TO MAKE 'EM DREAM THINGS LIKE THAT!

Coming
Soon
Too!



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